

Message Text

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USMISSION GENEV

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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S E C R E T ROME 13914

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN COMMENTS ON CSCE AND MBFR LINKAGE

REFS: A. STATE 213648; B. STATE 214661; C. USNATO 5474;

D. USNATO 5399

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1. CHARGE HAD LUNCH WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR DUCCI OCTOBER 8,

DURING WHICH THE QUESTION OF NATO DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POSSIBLE LINKAGE OF CSCE AND MBFR WAS TOUCHED ON. DUCCI EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE MATTER WAS HELD OVER IN THE SPC UNTIL OCTOBER 18 AS HE ASSUMED THE SECRETARY WANTED ALLIED VIEWS BEFORE HE WENT TO MOSCOW, WHEN HE MIGHT PROBE THE SOVIETS ON THIS MATTER.

2. DUCCI REMARKED THAT GROMYKO HAD SPOKEN TO MORO ALONG THE LINES SIMILAR TO THOSE HE HAD TAKEN WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER (SEE REFTTEL A). REPORTEDLY GROMYKO TOOK HARD LINES ON BASKET III, THE LANGUAGE CONCERNING PEACEFUL CHANGE AND INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS, AND CBM'S. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, PUSH FOR A CONCLUSION AT THE SUMMIT NOR DID HE URGE PARTICULAR SPEED. DUCCI NOTED THAT A LINKAGE BETWEEN CSCE AND MBFR HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN STARTING THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND PERHAPS MIGHT WORK NOW TO SPUR PROGRESS ON MBFR. DUCCI REMARKED THAT THE ITALIANS ARE STILL NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MBFR BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WOULD INTERPOSE OBJECTIONS TO THE LINKAGE CONCEPT.

3. DUCCI WENT ON TO LIST SOME OF THE GOM'S CONCERNS ABOUT MBFR. HE PROFESSED TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS SOME TENDENCY IN WAHINGTON TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF A SINGLE PHASE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE NOT ONLY A REDUCTION OF US AND SOVIET FORCES BUT WOULD INVOLVE EUROPEAN FORCES AS WELL. THE ITALIANS HAVE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WITH THE REDUCTION OF EUROPEAN FORCES AND THEREFORE ARE STRONG BELIEVRS THAT THERE SHOULD BE TWO PHASES TO MBFR AND THAT THE REDUCTION IN EUROPEAN FORCES BE DELAYED. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, IF GERMAN, BRITISH, DUTCH, BELGIAN FORCES ARE REDUCED, THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DEVELOP PRESSURES IN ITALY TO REDUCE ITS MILITARY FORCES EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD NOT BE COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD APPEAL TO THE ECONOMIZERS AND LEFTISTS WHO OBJECT TO MILITARY SPENDING GENERALLY.

4. THE SECOND POINT RAISED CONCERNED THE FACT THAT WHEN EUROPEANS REDUCE THEIR MILITARY FORCES THEY ARE NOT MERELY WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA (AS IN THE CASE OF THE US OR USSR) BUT ARE IN FACT DISBANDED. HE EXPRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF A NET REDUCTION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN MILITARY CAPABILITY AT THIS TIME OR FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. FINALLY, DUCCI SAID THAT HE
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TERMED A "DEFENSE EUROPEENE" WITHIN NATO AND THUS HE BELIEVED IT UNWISE THAT THE EUROPEANS BE RESTRICTED UNDER A FORMAL AGREEMENT IN MAINTAINING THEIR MILITARY FORCES AT VARIOUS LEVELS. DUCCI ADMITTED THAT SUCH A EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE WOULD REQUIRE A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION PRIOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT AND THIS LOOKED RATHER REMOTE AS A POSSIBILITY. BEAUDRY

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